
IOWA UTILITIES BOARD
Telecommunications Section

Docket No.: SPU-2010-0006
Utility: Qwest Communications
International, Inc. and
CenturyTel, Inc.
File Date: August 1, 2016
Memo Date: August 22, 2016

TO: The Board

FROM: Joni Nicoll

SUBJECT: Request to Terminate Integration Reporting and to Close Docket

I. Background

In May 2010, Qwest Communications International, Inc. and CenturyTel, Inc. (CenturyLink), filed with the Board an “Application for Expedited Approval of Reorganization.” The reorganization would transfer control of Qwest’s operating subsidiaries to CenturyLink. In November 2010, the Board issued an “Order Approving Settlement Agreements, Granting Motions to Withdraw, and Allowing Proposed Reorganization” (Reorganization Order).

As part of the Reorganization Order, several post-merger reporting requirements were established.¹ CenturyLink was ordered to submit quarterly integration reports (no report end date established), quarterly service quality reports for three years after close of the merger,² and annual broadband deployment reports for five years after close of the merger.

The integration reports are the result of a Settlement Agreement with the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA), a division of the Iowa Department of Justice, in which CenturyLink agreed to submit quarterly reports showing integration plans as they are developed. The reports describe the scheduling of systems conversions which may affect Iowa customers, such as business office and trouble reporting call centers, maintenance systems that monitor central office and transport equipment, engineering systems, outside plant record systems, billing systems, and wholesale Operation Support Systems (OSS).

The requirement to file quarterly service quality reports expired in 2013. In addition, on April 21, 2014, the Board issued an “Order Regarding Annual Broadband Deployment Reporting Requirement and Meeting Schedule.” This

¹ Reorganization Order, pp. 14-15, 56-57.

² The merger was completed on April 1, 2011.

order terminated the annual broadband deployment reporting requirement established in the Reorganization Order. Thus, the only reports currently required are the integration reports.

On August 1, 2016, CenturyLink filed a motion to terminate its integration reporting and to close the docket. CenturyLink states that it has been over five years since the reorganization closed, and that it has complied with all of the conditions for approval of the reorganization. In particular, CenturyLink notes all of the conditions that were tied to a duration of time have now expired, leaving only the obligation to provide integration reports.

CenturyLink submits that since over five years have passed since the closing of the reorganization, it is now appropriate to terminate its obligation to provide integration reports and to close this docket.

On August 2, 2016, OCA filed a response, stating it does not object to CenturyLink's motion.

II. Analysis

The integration reports have been filed on a quarterly basis since the closing of the reorganization in 2011. The latest report was filed on June 28, 2016. As noted, filing of the integration reports is a result of a requirement in the Settlement Agreement between CenturyLink and OCA, which was approved by the Board in its Reorganization Order.

One aspect of CenturyLink's integration reporting to the Board includes information about any changes to its wholesale OSS process. Staff from the Board's Telecommunications Section currently participates in monthly calls hosted by CenturyLink that discuss ongoing activity related to CenturyLink's Change Management Process (CMP).³ By listening to these monthly calls, staff can informally monitor any future modifications to the wholesale OSS process.

Further, OCA was the party to the reorganization docket that originally requested the integration reports and does not object to their discontinuance at this time.

Based upon the above factors, staff believes that CenturyLink's motion should be approved.

³ According to CenturyLink's website under *For Business – Wholesale: Products & Services*, "The Change Management Process (CMP) is intended to facilitate a discussion between CLECs and CenturyLink about Product, Process or OSS Interface release changes, release life cycles, release notifications, communication intervals, and regularly scheduled CMP meetings. Team Members include CLEC and CenturyLink representatives who gather to review CLEC and CenturyLink Change Requests (CRs) and to discuss CenturyLink Notifications."

III. Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board issue an order terminating CenturyLink's quarterly integration reporting requirement and closing Docket No. SPU-2010-0006.

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED

/jln

IOWA UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Geri D. Huser 8-22-16

Date

/s/ Elizabeth S. Jacobs 8-23-11

Date

/s/ Nick Wagner 8-23-16

Date